OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, a constituent establishment of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been carrying out research on improvement and utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants. It also organizes training programmes for farmers in different parts of Uttar Pradesh including hill districts, on cultivation practices. The U.P. Government has recently provided land to CIMAP at Purara-Baijnath, located in Garud valley of district Almora for setting up of a field station. CIMAP is introducing new varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants in this field station. It also has plans for training farmers in the cultivation of these newer varieties. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has set up a National Gene Bank for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at CIMAP for conservation, characterization and sutainable utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants of Central and Northern Indian Regions including UP hills. The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi, Katarmal, Almora is also carrying out research on herbal and medicinal plants of UP hills.

(c) to (e) Under the existing patent law of country, plants - including medicinal and herbal cannot be patented.

Development of Herbal Drug by CDRI, Lucknow

3924. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, has developed a herbal (Brahmi) based drug, called the Memory Pill, Which was launched by the former Prime Minister on February 28, 1996;

(b) if so, whether this drug has been tested for its unique qualities of enhancing memory and retarding the process of aging, without any side-effects; if so, steps taken for commercial manufacture of this drug; and

(c) whether the present price of the drug is rather prohibitive for the common man; if so, steps being taken to bring it within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The standard herbal drug Brahmi extract has been tested and found to be effective in animals for enhancing learning, consolidation and recall of memory. It has also been tested for toxicity and found to be 'safe'. These tests are internationally acceptable.

The Production and marketing of the herbal drug has been licensed by CSIR to a Chennai based Indian firm.

(c) The marketing and pricing of the herbal drug is a commercial matter and not within the purview of CSIR.

Preparation of voters identity cards of by INSDOC

3925. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre has been assigned the work to prepare the voters' identity cards in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with terms and conditions agreed for such assignment;

(c) whether the INSDOC has opened its offices in all areas of Delhi;

(d) whether the INSDOC has been assigned the work to undertake all correction work of voters identiy cards prepared by earlier agency viz. E.T. and T.D.C.L; and

(e) if so, the detials thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?